

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached new sheet of drawings includes new Figures 1 and 2.

Mold 10 in new Figure 1 is supported by the originally filed specification and claims at, for example, page 20, lines 2-4; and page 21, lines 12-21.

Mill blank 20 in new Figures 1 and 2 is generally supported by the originally filed specification and claims at, for example, page 20, lines 1-2.

Handle 30 in new Figure 2 is supported by the originally filed specification and claims at, for example, page 20, lines 15-16; and page 21, lines 22-23.

Remarks

The Office Action mailed 18 October 2006 has been received and reviewed. Claim 41 having been amended, claims 16-27, 36-40, 42-63, and 71-72 having been canceled herein, without prejudice, and claims 73-87 having been added, the pending claims are claims 41, 64-70, and 73-87.

New Figures 1 and 2 have been added and are supported, for example, as discussed in the section entitled "Amendments to the Drawings." No new matter has been added.

The specification has been amended at page 3, line 20 to add a section entitled "Brief Description of the Drawings." The specification has also been amended in the paragraphs beginning at page 20, line 1 and page 21, line 20 to add reference numerals illustrated in new Figures 1 and 2. No new matter has been added.

Claim 41 has been amended by rewriting the claim in independent form.

New claims 73-87 are supported, for example, by originally filed claims 41-51, 53, and 61-63, respectively.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 64-70.

Applicants note that the Examiner listed claim 41 as being rejected on the Office Action Summary sheet (i.e., page 1, Box 6 of the Office Action mailed 18 October 2006). However, claim 41 is not addressed in any of the rejections in the body of the Office Action. Claim 41 having been rewritten in independent form, notification that claim 41 has been allowed is respectfully requested in the next Official Communication.

Objection to Lack of Drawings

The Examiner objected to the specification under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). Specifically, the Examiner requested that the a mill blank, a mold, and a handle be shown in the drawings. New

Figures 1 and 2 having been added herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection has been rendered moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 16-27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. While not acquiescing to the rejection, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claims 16-27 have been canceled, and the rejection has been rendered moot.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 16, 18-20, 36, 50, and 52-53 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Salensky (U.S. Patent No. 3,864,426); claims 16, 18-20, 54, and 56-60 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Oxman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,980,253); claims 16, 19, 22, 24-25, 54, 56-63, and 71 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Holmes (U.S. Patent No. 6,030,606); and claims 16, 19, 22-25, 54-62, and 71-72 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Waknine (U.S. Patent No. 4,544,359). While not acquiescing to these rejections, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claims 16, 18-20, 22-25, 36, 50, 52-63, and 71-72 have been canceled, and the rejections have been rendered moot.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) claims 17, 37-40, 42-49, and 51 as being unpatentable over Salensky; claims 17, 21, 55, and 61-63 as being unpatentable over Oxman et al.; and claims 18, 21, 23, 26, 27, 55, and 72 as being unpatentable over Holmes. While not acquiescing to these rejections, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of the present application, claims 17-18, 21, 23, 26-27, 37-40, 42-49, 51, 55, 61-63, and 72 have been canceled, and the rejections have been rendered moot.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claims 73-87 depend directly or ultimately from independent claim 64. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 73-87 are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 64 is allowable, in addition to reasons related to the subject matter further recited in each.

Entry, consideration, and allowance of new claims 73-87 are respectfully requested.

Amendment and Response
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For: DENTAL MILL BLANKS

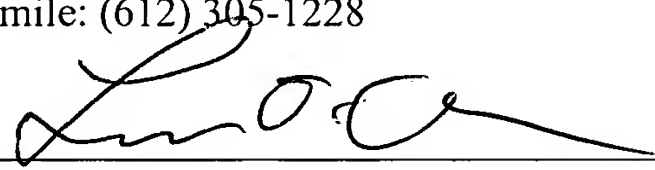
Page 12 of 12

Summary

It is respectfully submitted that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' Representatives, at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted
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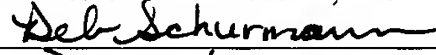
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §1.10:

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The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to **Mail Stop Amendment**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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